THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) The reasons are *inter alia* delayed reports from the field formations of the Income-tax Department and requests for adjournment of cases fixed for hearing by the applicants as well as the Department.

(c) The Commission has taken following steps for settlement of cases:

(i) holding meetings with the concerned Chief Commissioner of Income-tax to expedite the Reports.

(ii) Camping by Benches of the Commission at different stations; and

(iii) Reallocating the work among the four Benches of the Commission to increase disposal.

Seeking Special Grant by Railways

1567. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have sought special grant from Government to accelerate work on select projects;

(b) if so, the projects proposed to be covered by the special grants; and

(c) the action taken to sanction additional funds to complete the pending projects in Public Interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir;

(b) and (c) Additional budget support of Rs. 1898 crore for (i) replacement and renewal of over-aged assets of Railways as a part of their effort to strengthen Railway Safety (Rs. 1000 crore) and (ii) accelerated progress of select projects (Rs. 898 crore) has been agreed to. Ministry of Railways will accordingly obtain the approval of the Parliament through Supplementary Demands for Grants in the current session.

Subsidiaries of ICICI

1568. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of subsidiaries of ICICI at present;